in five thousand patients treated. The tissue culture rabies vaccine, which is comparatively more effective and is, however, expensive.

(e) Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor have already initiated action for development of tissue culture anti-rabies human vaccine.

(f) and (g) The World Health Organisation is of the opinion that the cost effectiveness of immunization of stray, rabies prone animals through baited vaccines, eludes public health acceptance under the present Indian situation.

Sale of Depoprovera Contraceptive

2908. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission has been granted to medical practitioners, drug-sellers and others to dispense without restriction the hormonal contraceptive Depoprovera;

(b) whether women's rights groups have represented to Government against the introduction of the contraceptive; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to seek expert advice on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) The representing organisations had been informed that the drug was not to be promoted or sold wihtout a prescription from a Registered Medical Practitioner and the opinion of experts had been obtained before approval of marketing was granted.

Disincentives to Check Population Growth

2909. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE by pleased to state:

(a) what Government consider that population growth rate is alarming;

(b) whether Government consider imposing negative incentives to check the population growth; and

(c) if so, what are the measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The NDC's Committee on Population has made certain recommendations on incentives and disincentives. A copy of summary of recommendations is given in Statement I(*see below*). The draft Population Policy document has also made certain suggestions. These are given in Statement II.

Statement-I

Incentives and Disincentives as Recommended by NDC Committee on Population

The incentives/disincentives currently applicable to employees of Central/State/UT Governments, Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings etc. for adopting small family norm may be appropriately modified as follows:—

1. Leave Travel Concessions, free or concessional rail/bus or air journeys wherever applicable, CGHS facilities/ reimbursement of medical expenses, Maternity Leave benefit (excluding those directly affecting the health of the mother and the foetus/new born), etc. are made available up to two children only.

2. Special increments for undergoing sterilisation, incentive of lower rate of interest for house building advances, interest bearing advances viz. vehicle loans should be available to the employees with two or less children only.

3. Priority in allotment of Government accommodation is given to employees who have adopted 2-child norm.

4. Any public servant violating the Child Marriage Restraint Act or who has more than 2 children should be debarred from promotion for a period of five years and birth of a child beyond three should result in dismissal from services.

5. Persons violating the Child Marriage Restraint Act or having more than 2 children may be debarred from recruitment in the Government/ Autonomous Bodies/Public Sector Undertakings.

Legal and administrative implications of the above recommendations should be got examined before implementation once these are accepted in principle by the Government.

6. Regarding incentives available under the compensation of loss of wages to the acceptors of sterilisation the States/UTs may be given flexibility of operation.

7. Special inceptives and support to such programmes as involvement and continuation of schooling of female children, delaying the age at marriage, old age pensions as already adopted by several States should be introduced in other States also.

8. Benefit of loans, advances, allotment of land/house sites, facilities of PDS should be withdrawn from facilities violating the 2-child norm, but may be restored after the couple has undergone sterilisation operations.

Statement-II

Extract of Recommendations of the Group of Experts pertaining to incentives and disincentives

Part A Para 8 (e) (iii)

"Incentives in cash or kind given by the Central and State Governments for the acceptors of contraceptives as well as to motivators and service providers will be discontinued."

Part B Para 9.1

"The employees of the Central Government, State Governments, Municipalities as well as employees of various public sector undertakings must give the lead in adopting the small family norm. The service rules in the central and state Governments and their undertakings would be suitably modified to ensure that the small family norm is adopted by their employees. Similarly, all new entrants to the government who are married before the age of 21 years in the case of boys and 18 years in the case of girls will be debarred from recruitment. Promotion policies should be such that the adoption of small family norm is encouraged. The entire organised sector (public as well as private) must also take similar steps in order to create an environment where the small family norm is adopted by these relatively better off classes of society."

Part B Para 13.1

"Rajasthan and Haryana have enacted laws which debar prospectively persons who do not adopt the two child family norm from contesting elections for panchayats, zilla parishads and nagarpalikas. This reflects political commitment. Even if such legilsation does not exist, there should be a code of conduct which enjoins of all elected representatives of the people, from parliament to panchayat, to adopt voluntarily the small family norm. Elected people's representatives will then become role models for the public to emulate. Future legislation in this area at Central or state level should however safeguard the interests of women, particularly those belonging to the socially and economically underprivileged sections of society."